

*The Canadian Association
for
Health, Physical Education and Recreation*

INCORPORATED 1950

(Founded 1933)



703 Spadina Avenue,
Toronto 4, Ontario,
October 24, 1966.

"THE JOY OF EFFORT"
by R. TAIT MCKENZIE

Miss Elizabeth Pitt,
36C Art Plaza,
East Main Street,
Welland, Ontario.

Dear Elizabeth:

Here are some of our materials including membership forms.

We really do have a fair number of publications available from this office including the A.A.H.P.E.R. productions.

Physical Education in Canada has references to R. Tait McKenzie in several chapters.

Thanks for your help over the 'phone today.

Regards,

Blackie

C. R. Blackstock
Executive Director

CRB:s



"A Strange Chronicle"
And the Author
Elizabeth Pitt Barron

Superintendent Eaton Nursing Division of the
St John Ambulance, World War 2. Overseas duty.
Graduate: Margaret Eaton School, Toronto
Gymnastic College, Ollerup, Denmark.
Staff of: Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia, Pa.
Havergal College, Toronto.
Camp Counsellor: Tananakoon, Algonquin Park.
Camp Oolahwan, Laurentians, Quebec.
Temple University, Phys. Ed. Camp.
Camp Director: Shadow Lake Camp. Eatons.
Director: Eaton Girls Club. Eatons, Toronto.
Executive Director: YMCA Oshawa.
YMCA - YMCA Welland.
YMCA Niagara Falls, Ont.
European Travel with Lady Eaton - 4 months
Winter Olympics, Garmisch, Germany, 1936
Member of: Zonta International, Niagara Falls.
Niagara Falls Camera Club President.
Life member: YMCA Niagara Falls
Delta Psi Kappa, (Phys Ed.) Philadelphia

While Elizabeth Pitt Barron was born in Toronto she grew up in Collingwood, to become a Georgian Bay enthusiast, and enjoyed many canoe trips on the north shore. It was her chosen profession in Physical Education that first attracted her Mother's cousin Rob McKenzie during a brief visit to Philadelphia. He immediately arranged for her to start her career at Bryn Mawr College. It seems that from this focal point on, the story is told of a simple force, which stepped in unexpectedly to take over and control a strange chronicle of events, that formed an unusual but colourful life pattern.

Only following her third retirement and happy marriage, did she find time to write of the power and influence of Tait McKenzie which had permeated her life. Books had been written about his outstanding and famous sculpture, and other accomplishments, but nothing whatever regarding he as a man, with a warm personality and great joy of living. He shared his love with his wife Ethel, his work and for people in general, yet could overlook the entire world surrounding him while deep in his creative sculpture work.

His sudden death left Ethel distraught, with many multiple decisions to be made regarding their home and his studio The Mill of Kintail, at Almonte. It took until shortly before she died to dispose of her loved possessions. All turned out satisfactorily, and far beyond her fondest dreams made with her husband.

The strange chronicle continued to extend through the life of the writer, and became finalized and reached it's climax before the great Scottish American Memorial in Edinburgh Scotland, appropriately named "The Call".

It was at last answered.

A book was written, in tribute, for all his Power and Influence.

Dear Sir-

I regret that

I neglected to give you a copy of my letter to the Canada Council as of Feb 19th and their reply of Feb 22nd suggesting my contacting book publishers.

Actually yours is ^{the} only contact to date, as it was my preference selected preference.

I have however, been having people read my book - made up by me, in a Cales #3.99 scrap book + ^{only book published} at per sample I left at your office.

Further readers and their comments include:

A prominent lawyer - "nicely arranged, with an interesting theme tying it together. Unusual combination of a prominent person and yet another autobiography. Had never seen it done before and enjoyed it thoroughly."

Former owner of the Mill of Kintail - ^{Mill content excellent} Written well, & from the heart.

Scientist in Ottawa - an unusually simple story which kept keeps continuous interest throughout.

Teenage Leader - Niagara Falls - Liked the stories & couldn't put it down. Very informative; & inspiring. Her parents anxious to read it.

woman Doctor. Past Pres. women's Medical Assoc - Unusual content, good Canadian story, inspiring to young readers too.

T.V. Talk show - Peterboro - asked to be interviewed - declined for present

Cleaning woman - loved to read of people she had heard of.

Chinese man carpenter - enjoyed the travel & people + story content -

St. Citizen retired - easy to read & hard to put down.

University engineer - relaxed reading and true war stories

Liked the theme of chronicles throughout.

All remarks of over thirty persons were surprisingly keen about it, and anxious to secure the book.

Farther outlets developed in Ottawa + Queen University, York, and book stores.

The Lady Eaton's section was O.K'd by Mr John Craig Eaton who read the ~~sec~~ part carefully, and enjoyed it. Mr Frederick Eaton and Mr George Eaton gave their approval and interest as well. I was very happy about this + as they remembered my trip with their grandmother.

In all aspects to be mushrooming & the demand exceeds my supply.

I have made minor word corrections for later attention
in the book

I trust you too may enjoy it.
Yours sincerely.

Readers Comments regarding "A Strange Chronicle",
written by Elizabeth Pitt Barron

Elizabeth Pitt Barron
321-413 Linwell Rd.
St. Catharines, Ont. Canada
L2M 2P3

1001 - 210

Gen. Mgr. & Publisher Niagara Falls Review: Unusual treatment of two stories tied together with a theme that holds ones interest throughout the entire book. Advised sending to publisher Good Canadian content, and of historical value.

Homer's Editor Niagara Falls Review: A flare for writing a success story, and the human side of a famous personality, all laced with humour, yet very moving in areas.

McGill-Queen's Publishers "This is indeed a most interesting manuscript" Executive Editor.

Prominent Lawyer: Nicely arranged, with an interesting theme tying the chronicles together. An unusual combination of a prominent person, and yet another personality autobiography.

He had never seen it done before, and found it refreshing and enjoyable.

Former Owner of Mill of Kintail: Interesting & vivid description of the Mill before ownership.

Felt McKenzie personalities were written from the heart.

Scientest in Ottawa: An unusual combination of chronicles combined in a most interesting way.

Former Mgr Chamber of Commerce, Honolulu HI. A real Canadian story I couldn't put down.

Ryerson Teacher & Author: Relaxed reading, informative, enjoyable and very interesting.

Teenager: Wondered what was happening next. An inspiration to us careerwise. Kept my keen interest throughout. Liked the romance and the way it was written.

Senior Citizen: Easy to read, and hard to put down.

Former President Canadian Women Doctors Assoc.: Unusual content. Interesting story of two successful Canadians. Inspiring to young people, and relaxing for older persons.

University Engineer: Relaxed reading, well presented war content. Enjoyed ALL the chronicles and read steadily to absorb what was to happen next.

Chief Librarian Niagara Falls Public Library: Combined story of a famous person with an autobiography is unusual and delightful. Read it straight through. Has a fine beginning, good highlight ending, with humour, pathos and interest all the way in between. Liked the presentation of life and customs during the early twenties, which added great value.

Jamaican cleaning woman: Loved to read about the people she had heard of, and unable to see.

Chinese Carpenter: Enjoyed the travel, people and content. Found it most interesting.

English Woman, Rockcliffe Ottawa: Absolutely enthralled, it is charming. Relived many of your details in war time England.

Names of the above persons may be had on request.

The above comments are samples of the varied group of readers reading "A Strange Chronicle". Many of them liked the introduction of story characters mentioned in the book; illustrated in the front pages. They felt they knew the family, and were able to follow them closely. To my joy and surprise, I find "A Strange Chronicle has appealed to old and young and to all walks in life. Newspaper interviews and a T. V. talk show have been declined to date.

The Ministry of industry and Tourism have given consent to use their photos and printed material of "The Mill of Kintail". (Only two photos were selected).

Most photos are family pictures.

It is to be noted that there were two versions of McKenzies death. Both at his home. One, that he collapsed in the studio, and the other that it happened on the stairway. The first told by his assistant sculptor, and the second by his wife, as told to me. Both were from a severe heart attack. I chose to use the latter description.

Elizabeth Barron

Readers Comments regarding "A Strange Chronicle",
written by Elizabeth Pitt Barron.

R.R.#3 P.O.Box 664
Manotick, Ont.
K0A - 2N0

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Women's Editor Niagara Falls Review: A flare for writing a success story, and the human side of a famous personality, all laced with humour, yet very moving in areas.

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Domestic cleaning woman: Loved to read about the people she had heard of, and unable to see.

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Elizabeth Barron.

6416 Clare Crescent
Niagara Falls, Ontario.
L2G - 2E2

Feb. 19th, 1979

The Canada Council
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed find copy of my manuscript entitled "A Strange Chronicle". This extraordinary true story is about the power and influence of Dr R. Tait McKenzie, world famous sculptor, medical doctor, writer and professor of physical education. It tells of a simple force, which stepped in unexpectedly to take over and control a strange chronicle of events, that formed an unusual but colourful life pattern for me.

The chapter titles, and the first and last chapters explain how it started and built up to a climax ending.

My manuscript has been read by Bernice Huxtable, Womens Editor, and Gordon Murray Managing Editor and publisher of The Niagara Review, our daily newspaper, who both advised me to immediately submit it for a Canadian Council Grant.

First because of it's valuable Canadian content.

and, it was a "one of a kind story"

- other books told of McKenzie, ^{sculpture} but nothing as a man with a warm personality.
- it would inspire young Canadians starting careers.
- Senior citizens would enjoy the "people" content.
- it would be suitable for selling at "The Mill of Kintail" where thousands meet. My contact is thru Eatons, YMCA's, YMCA's, St John Ambulance, camps, clubs, physical education and recreation etc across Canada, and in Pennsylvania.
- all would find it varied for both men and women interest. Peace and war.
- the picture introductions were an innovation in introducing the events and characters in the story.

McKenzie letters to me, and my family relationship verify my story. Major J.F. Leys former owner of the Mill of Kintail is familiar with my close connections.

I would therefore like to submit my manuscript for your consideration, and if acceptable for publication in book form, would ask for the required grant for the publisher of your choice.

Would you kindly inform me of the correct procedure in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Barron.
(Mrs R.A. Barron)

copy only

The Canada Council ■ 255 Albert Street ■ P.O. Box 1047 ■ Ottawa ■ K1P 5V8 ■ (613) 237-3400

February 22, 1979

Mrs. Elizabeth ~~Patt~~ Barron
6416 Clare Crescent
Niagara Falls, Ontario
L2G 2E2

Dear Mrs. Barron:

Further to your letter of February 19th, I enclose herewith an Aid to Writing and Publications brochure and an Explorations brochure. The Canada Council Aid to Publication programs give subsidies directly to publishers at their request. We have no program whereby aid is given to individuals for publication of their manuscripts. I suggest you try to approach a few book publishers with your manuscript. For a list of Canadian publishers, you may write to the Association of Canadian Publishers, 70 Esplanade East, Toronto, Ontario, M5E 1R2.

Should you need financial help to revise your manuscript, you may be eligible for assistance in the Explorations program. For more information concerning this program, please do not hesitate to write to Ms. Marijana Lakich at the Canada Council. She is the officer in charge of the program for Ontario.

Yours truly,

Nina Van Vaerenberg

Nina Van Vaerenberg
Awards Officer

NVV:oa

Encl.

P.S. I am returning to you the manuscript you submitted with your letter.

N.B.

My only contact with an American Canadian book publisher, brought a personal letter from the editor stating "There is nothing wrong with your manuscript, and is interesting, and very moving in places". He suggested a further publisher.

My one and only attempt was most encouraging!

E.P.B.

8.1



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